

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES  
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER  
March 12, 2012**

<b>DOA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Rae Ann Butler	Sue Ramsburg	Debra Savageau	Hal Ehart	Kathy Schey
Dennis Ford	Pat Rosensteel	Steve Wilhide		
Millard Haines	Carolyn True	David Gray, Comm		
Jim Judd				
Diane Julian				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Mary Rice				
Virginia Skelley				
Pat Tudor				
Robert Wannemacher				
Dan Yeeles				

- I. **Call to Order – RaeAnn Butler, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions –** RaeAnn welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Action on the Agenda –** No changes were made to the agenda.

**IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.

**V. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting.

**Alderman's Report** – Alderman Krimm was not present at today's meeting.

**VI. Spring Forum, RaeAnn Butler** – RaeAnn has spoken with Hal since the last meeting. He is unable to chair the committee for the forum or attend the CoA monthly meetings due to his current work schedule. It was agreed to continue on with the plan to have a Spring Forum. This Commission has the BoCC attention at this time and needs to move forward on this event. The following members agreed to work on planning the event; Ginny, Louise, Dennis, Mary and Pat Tudor although none are able to chair the committee. Carolyn will ask the BoCC for date availability in May. The committee will plan to meet on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 at the Dept of Aging. It would be beneficial to get seniors to help present the questions to the BoCC. The large auditorium at the Frederick Senior Center would be available to hold the event. Forum committee members are asked to bring topics and ideas for advertising the event to March 13<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Perhaps in the future this Commission could team up with the League of Women Voters to hold a candidate forum

**Planning Study update, Pat Rosensteel** – A much larger group met on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Many community agencies were represented. Most are service driven entities. It was insightful to have such a diverse group to discuss the future needs of seniors. There was much discussion regarding budgetary constraints, healthcare issues, agency coordination, and education awareness. Some specific areas to focus on are aging in place and education awareness. It was noted that there is a disconnect between agencies who need to communicate better. There should be more clarity in what specific resources each agency has available to citizens. The groups should work together when serving mutual clients. Agencies should be less guarded and work more towards collaboration. The "Senior Living" magazine is a good way to get information out to citizens but it only comes out six times a year. There is a lot of information available, there just needs to be a consistent way to get it out to the public. It may be a good idea for the CoA to start visiting the local senior center and food sites. It would be helpful to have a list at next month's meeting.

There was some discussion on the 211 resource line. This call center has a base knowledge of where to find services in Frederick County. The Dept of Aging resource guide which is distributed to local

physicians, families, professionals, individuals, and other sites. Each member received a copy of it at today's meeting. The 211 resource line is administered by the Mental Health Association. This may be a deterrent to some seniors calling as they may have a negative view of "mental health issues". However, some CoA members felt a phone call to 211 is an easier resource than paging through a book trying to find the correct agency to call.

**Innovations in Aging Expo Louise Lynch** – The Expo is scheduled for May, 2012. There is a draft of topics but still no definite agenda available.

**CoA Executive Committee Membership, RaeAnn Butler** – This membership is reviewed when officers change. The CoA Executive Committee meets the last Tuesday of the month to set the agenda and discuss any topics that have occurred between regular commission meetings. The committee consists of the current chair and past chair and three other members. There currently is a need for 1-2 more members. The commitment consists of an hour meeting once a month. Jim expressed some interest and wondered if a conference call would be acceptable if a member was not able to attend. This was agreeable. Contact RaeAnn if you are interested.

**VII. TSAC, Alderman Krimm** – This group meets every other month. They are very responsive to senior needs. Sherri Buford, Transit, is Chair for this Commission. Louise is willing to act as a back-up for attendance to these meetings. Transit receives a lot of state funding. There was some discussion on the unavailability of schedules at the bus stops. It would be beneficial to have a phone number posted which would allow someone to call for schedule information.

**VIII. PiC, Diane Julian** – There is nothing to report at this time.

**Nominating, Diane Julian/Jim Judd** – There is still one opening left on this Commission at this time. Advertising for this opening has been done. There could possibly be another opening if Hal is not able to attend monthly meetings. Carolyn sent an email to minority groups to solicit interest and has not heard back from anyone yet. She will send the distribution list to Jim and Diane.

**Affordable Housing Council, Larry Johnson/Dennis Ford** - Dennis left this meeting in order to attend the Affordable Housing Council meeting today.

**USM, Ginny Skelley** – Bob, Louise, and Ginny attended the Forum on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ginny distributed copies of the program book to members present today. The Forum can be viewed on the USM

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website via YouTube. Most of the delegation were at a meeting with the City of Frederick on the day of the Forum. There was some discussion on a long term care insurance credit. The cost of this credit is too high to be considered. There was discussion on transportation issues for people with limited mobility. Forums in the future may have limited topics so everyone can stay focused on specific issues.

**Adult Public Disabled Review Board, RaeAnn Butler** – This group is scheduled to meet on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Director, Carolyn True** – Carolyn distributed a monthly report with a grant report attached. It shows funds attached to each program and what amounts have been spent. Please let Carolyn know if you have any questions. There may be funding cuts coming for the state Ombudsman and Vulnerable Adults programs. Funds are locally used in the latter program for Guardianship expenses. The amount being discussed is twelve percent cut to the Ombudsman program. There are many agencies against these cuts. A grant has been approved for MAP (MD Access Point) expansion funds. These funds will be used to offset the costs of current staff and will set up an office for someone from the Freedom Center. Funds will also be used for cross training and professional development opportunities. Also received was a \$7500 Senior Center operating grant which will allow for additional fitness classes at the Brunswick and Frederick Senior Centers.

A bid process started for an HVAC renovation project at the Frederick Senior Center. Half of the building space will be closed for five to six months. It will be an occupied renovation as staff will still be working in the building. Some programs will be disrupted during this time. Carolyn will keep the Commission notified as the bid process progresses. This project will be striving for energy efficiency.

There has been an increase in volunteers working at the Dept of Aging and Senior Centers. Some of these volunteers come from a volunteer Fair held at Frederick County Workforce Services. We are hoping to have a volunteer coordinator to help with recruitment, training, and retention.

There was some discussion on the congregate meals served at the senior centers. The decrease in seniors coming to the center for a meal is a national trend. The nutrition guidelines for meals served at the senior are very strict. This is a problem as many seniors do not want to eat the types of meals served. The LTC guidelines are different from the guidelines for senior centers. The interpretation of the guidelines for Maryland senior centers is very different from other states.

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- IX. Announcements, All** – The Friends of MoW received \$807 from a recent fundraiser by SRA. An additional \$500 will be coming from the same fundraiser. One of the goals for this year is to build the group's membership.

Millard Haines reported that the new Citizens Care and Rehab building is progressing as planned. A new CEO is in place. There continues to be a plan for this commission to be able to tour the new buildings.

- X. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg  
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

March 12, 2012 - Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Frederick Senior Center,  
Frederick, MD 21702

March 27, 2012, Commission on Aging Executive Committee meeting, 1:00 at  
the Frederick Dept of Aging